1: Drew G-8 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

IN FRONT OF THE COTTAGE IS A LEVEL

kept, where the people of the house spend nearly half their time, and where their cooking places are arranged. The whole cottage is, as a rule, neatly kept and carefully swept; the higher castes, especially Brahmans and Rájpúts, give, considering their appliances, an admirable example in this respect.

The larger villages and the towns have a double row of shops, what is called a bazaar, each of which consists of much such a hut, with its floor raised two or three feet above the street, and with a wider doorway, and in front of it a verandah, where the customer may come and sit with the shopkeeper to transact business.

Of the towns in the Outer Hills there are none besides Jummoo of any great size, and there are only one or two others that can be said to be flourishing, for the poverty and the thinness of the population of the country round is against them. Since, however, some towns and some other places show features of interest, we will proceed to visit a few and note what has appeared worthy of observation.

EAST OF THE CHINÁB.

Basoli was the seat of one of the Rajahips between which the low hills were divided before Jummoo swallowed up so many. A large building still remains that was the palace; it is now unkept and almost deserted. The town had already decayed but for the settlement in it of some busy Kashmíris, who by their trade of weaving bring some prosperity.

Basoli is one of several places in the low hills, being at the edge of a wood that is seldom disturbed, where the red monkey abounds; the monkey, being respected by the Hindús and protected by the laws, has here come to be most bold, so as to invade the town in great numbers, clambering over the palace walls and scampering across the chief open space of the town, and often enough doing mischief.

A day's march to the northward is *Balúwar*, which is the oldest seat of the rulers who afterwards went to *Basoli*. It is at the foot of a brushwood-covered spur of hill, and has beneath

1: Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

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off on two sides by ravines, and connected along the third with the slopes of the hills that surround and shut it in.

This town has signs of having at one time been among the most flourishing in these parts. It was the capital of the country called Bandrālta, which used to be governed by the Bandrāl caste of Mīāns. Their rule was displaced by that of the Sikhs under Ranjīt Singh, who took the place and held it for a time, until, partly for the sake of rewarding a favourite, partly because of the trouble of holding it against the hill people, the Thakars, Ranjīt Singh made Suchet Singh, the youngest of the Jummoo brothers, Raja of the place. Raja Suchet Singh held the place till his death. But I heard of a great effort made by the Thakars against him too, when some thousands came to assault it. The Dogrās, however, held out in the fort, which is a well-planned work, until help came from the Sikh army.

There are some remains of the house of the rulers of the time of the Bandrāl Mīāns; but their descendants do not live here; they found a home and a pension in British territory.

175 361 ●[366]

The town of Rāmnagar bears marks of the presence of Raja Suchet Singh. He took a pride in the place and improved it and encouraged the growth of it. The two long masonry-built bazaars were in his time full and busy; merchants from Amritsar and from Kābul were attracted to the place. Vigne, in 1839, remarked the great variety of races of people who were to be seen there; the bazaars were then being constructed. A large palace adorned with gardens, and the well-built barracks, show that Suchet Singh knew how to make himself and his people comfortable. On his death, which occurred about 1843, Rāmnagar came under the rule of Jummoo, and there was no longer the presence of a Raja to keep up its prosperity, which was indeed short-lived; and now the palace is deserted, and the bazaars are but half inhabited. There are a good many Kashmīrī settled in Rāmnagar; some of them are occupied with shawl work, executing orders from Nurpūr and Amritsar, and some in making coarse woollen cloth.

Udeenpūr is a modern town, situated in the innermost dūn

1; Drew G-8 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

243 after this a little rain is waited for, that the earth may crumble and become fit for watering and putting in the rice.

246 Among these mountains the months of winter, with snow deep on the ground, make it necessary for the peasant to lay in a good store of fodder for his cattle. Nowhere do the natives of India or the Himalayas seem to have learnt the advantages of making a large rick. Perhaps the holdings are too small, and co-operation in such a matter has not been arranged. In the neighbourhood we now are in they have two or three methods of storing the grass, which itself is plentiful on the slopes in summer. Sometimes they fix a series of poles upright in the ground in one line, and make a rough thatch over a ridge-pole at top, and then pile up the grass between and around the sticks. Another plan is to twist the grass into a loose rope and throw this over the forks of trees, where, hanging down, it is uninjured by the snow that falls, and is easily pulled off when wanted for use.

341 The town of Bhadarwāh is a busy, and, for such a hill country,
342 a comparatively large place. I estimate that there are 600 or 700 houses, and about 3000 inhabitants. It is built almost entirely of deodar wood; the frame-work of the houses is altogether of wood; only between the double plank-walls the spaces are filled in with stones, sometimes laid loose and sometimes cemented with mud; most of the houses have a sloped shingle-roof. There is a curious plan of building up pillars for the corners, and sometimes for the middle supports, of the houses and the temples. Square slabs of wood a few inches thick are placed upright in pairs, one pair being surmounted by another at right angles, and so on alternately.

361 Bhadarwāh has an open market-place, a long straight street
[366] leading to the Fort, two or three other bazaars, two mosques, and a large temple. The waters of one of the streams come through the very middle of the town, and branches from it are brought through all the streets. Both in among the buildings and all round the place fruit-trees are growing—apple, pear, mulberry, apricot, and cherry, and there are poplars, and a few chinār or plane trees.

1: Drew G-8 (1862-1872) 1875 AVI Kashmir AVI

133 in and display the strange hues of their bodies through the shower. The cascade is in greatest force in the spring, on the melting of the snows above, and it was thus I saw it; from that time it diminishes, but it is again increased when heavy rain falls in the rainy season, that is, the late summer; in winter it is least.

361 The small town of Kishtwār is dirty and dilapidated. There [366] are about 200 houses, including a bazaar with some shops; but there was a complete absence of life, of the busy cheerfulness one sees in some bazaars. The people seem to have been brought to a low stage of poverty from having in former years been given over to the Wazīr family, which still holds much influence here. Two large houses, built after the fashion of the houses of the richer people in Kashmir, which belong to that family, are exceptions [712] to the general state of decay. There is an old fort, on a little rising ground, oblong, with corner towers and other projecting buildings: it is manned by some thirty men.

563 The inhabitants are more than half Kashmīrī; the rest are [564] Hindūs of the Thakar, Krār, and and other castes. The Kashmiris here, too, carry on their shawl work; there are some twenty workshops for it in the town. In this place, as in Bhadarwāh, they seem to have settled for some generations.

132 The climate of Kishtwār is something like that of Bhadarwāh, but it is somewhat warmer, and must have a less fall of rain and snow. Snow falls during four months, but it does not continually stay on the ground; it may do so for twenty days at a time. On the slope towards the river, 1000 or 1500 feet below, it stays but a day. The fruits produced are apple, quince, three kinds of pear, plum, a few apricots, cherry, peach, grapes, mulberry, and walnut.

KISHTWAR HISTORY.

176 Kishtwār was governed by Rājpūt Rajas, who in early times probably ruled independent of all others.

The first whose name I can hear of is Raja *Bhagwān Singh*, who must have lived 200 years or more ago, as he was seven generations back from the one who was ruler fifty years ago.

3: Imperial Gazetteer G-3 (1889-95) 1909 AV1 Kashmir AV1

late Mahārājā Ranbīr Singh, but now it is merely the residence of the ruling family and the officials of the State. The governor (Hākim-i-Ala) of the province with his revenue office, the Chief Judge, the Sub-Judge and two magistrates of the first class, the Wazīr-i-Wazārat of the Jammu district, the Superintendent of police, Jammu province, the chief medical officer, and the heads of various departments all live in Jammu, together with the staff of their several offices. A large hall called the Ajaibghar was erected by the late Mahārājā for the accommodation of the present King-Emperor, when he visited Jammu as Prince of Wales in the year 1875. The Mandi Mubārak palaces and the palace of Rājā Sir Amar Singh, situated on the Rāmnagar hill, towards the north of the town, are the chief attractions. The Central jail has a daily average of 268 prisoners, and costs about Rs. 20,000 per annum. The State high school is located in a large building, and is doing fairly efficient work. It contains about 800 pupils. A college to be named after the Prince of Wales is shortly to be opened. A State hospital is maintained, costing annually Rs. 14,800. Great improvements have been made in the drainage system of the town, which is managed by a municipal committee, and more improvements in this respect are under contemplation.

Kathua.—An overgrown village in the Jasrota district, Jammu province, Kashmīr, situated in 32° 22′ N. and 75° 32′ E., on the right bank of the Rāvi and between it and the Ujh river. Population (1901), 5,801. Kathua possesses no points of interest. The buildings are mean and dilapidated, and the place has no past and no future. The climate is unhealthy, and the water-supply scanty and bad.

Mīrpur.—Town in the Bhimber district, Jammu province, Kashmīr, situated in 33° 11′ N. and 73° 49′ E., at an elevation of 1,236 feet above sea-level. It lies 22 miles north of the British cantonment of Jhelum, and is said to have been founded about 200 years ago by the Gakhars, Mīrān Khān and Sultān Fateh Khān. It is situated on high ground on the edge of the Kareli Kas, from which drinking-water is easily procured. There are several rather picturesque temples, the chief being the Sarkāri Mandir, built by Mahārājā Gulāb Singh, the Raghunāthji, and the temple of Dīwān Amar Nāth. The town contains 550 shops, forming a long bazar running east and west. Apart from the shop-keeping class, Brāhmans and Sikhs, of whom many are settled in Mīrpur, the inhabitants are mostly of the artisan or menial classes. There is a flourishing